

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 12191 181134Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-13 /084 W
-----069914 190429Z /21

R 181111Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8696

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 12191

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: TASK FORCE ANALYZES ANNOUNCED
RELEASES; FATHER DE LA TORRE; DELFIN DELICA;
RAQUEL TIGLAO

REF: (A) MANILA 11113, (B) MANILA 10818, (C) STATE 170974

1. SUMMARY: CHURCH TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES (TFD) HAS BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY MOST OF THE 2,081 PERSONS WHOM THE GOP ANNOUNCED WERE GIVEN AMNESTY OR RELEASED FROM DETENTION SINCE APRIL 7. ASIDE FROM THE 600 LABAN PROTESTERS, TFD RECOGNIZES ONLY ABOUT 75 NAMES AND SAYS THAT NEARLY ALL OF THESE WERE RELEASED (AT LEAST TEMPORARILY) SOME TIME AGO. ON OTHER HAND, TFD SAYS MORE THAN 40 POLITICAL DETAINEES NOT ON THE LISTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SET FREE. BY TFD STANDARDS MOST OF THE REPORTED RELEASEES MAY THUS BE COMMON CRIMINALS. HOWEVER WE WILL DEFER JUDGMENT UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROMISED BY MINDEF ENRILE. ON INDIVIDUAL CASES, EMBOFF SAW MOTHER OF FATHER DE LA TORRE, WHO HOPES FOR HIS RELEASE NEXT MONTH; TASK FORCE CONFIRMS DELFIN DELICA IS STILL DETAINED; AND STUDENT ACTIVIST RAQUAL TIGLAO WAS AMNESTIED DURING HER TRIAL. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANILA 12191 181134Z

TASK FORCE ANALYSIS. CHURCH-SPONSORED TASK FORCE ON DETAINEES (TFD) HAS MADE CURSORY ANALYSIS OF PUBLISHED LIST OF 1,450 DETAINEES REPORTEDLY RELEASED FROM DETENTION (REF B). TFD STAFFER TOLD EMBOFF JULY 12 THAT, ASIDE FROM THE ROUGHLY 600 LABAN LEADERS AND PROTEST MARCHERS AND THE EIGHT NEPOMUCENO CASE DEFENDANTS, IT CAN IDENTIFY ONLY 40-50 NAMES IT REGARDS AS POLITICAL

PRISONERS. THIS LEAVES MORE THAN 800 UNIDENTIFIED; TFD STAFF NOTED THAT MANY OF THESE ARE MUSLIM NAMES. MORE-OVER, ALL OF THE 40-50 PERSONS IDENTIFIED HAD ALREADY BEEN RELEASED BY THE END OF 1977, SOME AS EARLY AS 1973. SHE NOTED THAT ONLY ONE OF THE 86 POLITICAL DETAINEES HELD IN BICUTAN HAS BEEN RECENTLY RELEASED, AND TFD HAS HEARD NO REPORTS OF LARGE-SCALE RELEASES ELSEWHERE EITHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE SAID THAT 43 POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED RELEASED SINCE JUNE 9 BUT ARE NOT CARRIED ON THE GOP PUBLIC LISTS (THESE RELEASES WERE REPORTED IN MANILA 10604). STAFFER CONCLUDED THAT PUBLISHED NAME-LISTS AND FIGURES ARE ESSENTIALLY WORTHLESS. TFD IS NOT INCLINED TO DO FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE LISTS.

3. SIMILARLY, TFD SURVEY OF LIST OF 631 REPORTEDLY AMNESTIED INDICATES IT CONTAINS ONLY 28 PERSONS REGARDED BY TFD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS. ALL OF THESE 28 HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED FROM DETENTION.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT TFD HAS FOUND SO LITTLE EVIDENCE OF ACTUAL NEW RELEASES OF POLITICAL DETAINEES. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT MARCOS INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR (REF A) THAT THE RELEASES WERE INTENDED AS MUCH TO CLEAR COURT BACKLOGS AS TO EMPTY THE DETENTION CENTERS AND GOP WAS NOT BEING FUSSY ABOUT DISTINGUISHING COMMON CRIMINALS FROM POLITICAL DISSIDENTS. THUS MOST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANILA 12191 181134Z

OF THE RELEASEES MAY BE COMMON CRIMINALS BY TFD CRITERIA. WE WILL DEFER DEFINITIVE CONCLUSION ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RELEASES UNTIL WE RECEIVE MATERIALS FROM ENRILE (MANILA 11762) END COMMENT.

5. FATHER DE LA TORRE. DURING CALL ON TFD STAFFER, EMBOFF TALKED WITH MOTHER OF DETAINED PRIEST EDICIO DE LA TORRE (REF C). HERSELF VIRTUALLY A FULL-TIME HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, "TITA MOMMY" SAID HER SON HAD JUST BEEN ALLOWED TO GO HOME FOR HIS BIRTHDAY JULY 11 AND HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO STAY OUT UNTIL 8:00 P.M., VERSUS THE 5:00 P.M. OF PREVIOUS YEARS (HE WAS NOT ALLOWED OUT AT ALL IN 1977). SHE INTERPRETED THIS AS A HOPEFUL SIGN. SHE SAID THERE ARE STRONG RUMORS AT BICUTAN THAT MARCOS WILL MAKE AN "AMNESTY VISIT" TO BICUTAN ON PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTIONAL DAY, AUGUST 8 (A TRADITIONAL DAY FOR MASS RELEASES), AND THAT FR. DE LA TORRE HAS GOOD CHANCE TO BE RELEASED AT THAT TIME. SHE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS NEVER FORMALLY APPLIED FOR AMNESTY. HIS CHARGES OF SEDITION AND INCITING TO SEDITION WERE DROPPED JUNE 16 (MANILA 10209), AND ALL THAT REMAINS, SHE SAID, IS THE OLDER CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT REBELLION. THIS CARRIES

A RELATIVELY LIGHT SENTENCE, SHE ADED, AND ALL BUT TWO OF HIS CODEFENDANTS (ORIGIANALLY 16) HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED.

6. DELFIN DELICA. TFD STAFFER CONFIRMED THAT DELFIN DELICA IS STILL IN DETENTION (MANILA 4487). SHE NOTED THAT HIS BROTHER MARIO DELICA IS ON THE LIST OF 1,450 ORDERED RELEASED; HE WAS FREED IN 1975.

7. RAQUEL TIGLAO. "BULLETIN TODAY" JUNE 12 REPORTED THAT RAQUEL EDRALIN TIGLAO WAS GIVEN AMNESTY BY PRESIDENT MAROCS JUNE 11. SHE WAS CODEFENDANT IN SUBVERSION CASE OF LUZVIMINDO DAVID AND OTHER KABATAANG MAKABAYAN (NATIONALIST YOUTH) MEMBERS CURRENTLY BEING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MANILA 12191 181134Z

TRIED BY A MILITARY TRIBUNAL, AND IS THE FIFTH CO-DEFENDANT IN THAT CASE TO BE RELEASED. MURPHY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS, PRISONERS RELEASE, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA12191
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780295-0987
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780748/aaaabonf.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ad325171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MANILA 11113, 78 MANILA 10818, 78 STATE 170974
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1972433
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS: TASK FORCE ANALYZES ANNOUNCED RELEASES; FATHER DE LA TORRE; DELFIN DELICA; RAQUEL TIGLAO
TAGS: SHUM, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ad325171-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014